



US Army Corps  
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New Orleans District

# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Explore Mississippi Valley's cultural and natural riches** *Tulane, Corps, Park Service conference scheduled Oct. 7-9 in New Orleans*

NEW ORLEANS – Interpretation of the cultural and natural resources of the Mississippi River Valley will be the theme of a conference scheduled Oct. 7-9 in New Orleans.

Organizers are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulane University and the National Park Service. The location will be the Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Avenue.

“A major interest of museums, visitor centers, and heritage tourism is interpretation of 200 years of American experience in the Mississippi valley and of its colonial and prehistoric eras,” said Dr. Edwin Lyon, a conference organizer and Corps of Engineers historian.

“Human culture and nature are converging in the struggle to save Louisiana’s coast, and the Mississippi is the largest single resource available. Its fresh water, nutrients and sediment are expected to play a major role in restoring what the river created over millennia,” said Joan Exnicios, an organizer and Corps of Engineers archaeologist.

Keynote speaker at 5 p.m. Oct. 7 will be Mike Tidwell, author of Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast (2003). Sidney Coffee of the Louisiana Governor’s Office will speak that morning on the state’s America’s Wetland campaign to save coastal Louisiana.

Several speakers on Oct. 8 will deal with the African-American experience. A multi-part session that day will take up new Mississippi River interpretive projects, including those in New Orleans and St. Louis.

Concluding the conference Oct. 9 will be a walking tour of the French Quarter with guides of the National Park Service.

Find the full program is here <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/nod/confreg>